



ALJ/CF1/sgu 1/17/2023

FILED

01/17/23

10:18 AM

P2001007

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish Policies, Processes, and Rules to Ensure Safe and Reliable Gas Systems in California and perform Long-Term Gas System Planning.

Rulemaking 20-01-007

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING GRANTING EXTENSION
OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS ON STAFF PROPOSAL**

Summary

This ruling grants an extension of time to respond to my December 22, 2022 ruling. Opening comments on the ruling are due February 24, 2023. Reply comments are due March 16, 2023.

1. Background

On December 22, 2022, I issued a ruling directing parties to file comments on a *Staff Proposal on Gas Distribution Decommissioning Framework in Support of Climate Goals* (Staff Proposal) appended to the ruling, which suggests a framework for gas infrastructure decommissioning in support of the state's climate goals. The ruling directed gas corporations and invited other parties to file comments on the Staff Proposal no later than January 27, 2023 with reply comments due no later than February 8, 2023.

On January 10, 2023, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), jointly with San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), and Southwest Gas Corporation (collectively, the Joint Investor-Owned Utilities or IOUs), requested an extension of time to respond to

the December 22, 2022 ruling. Specifically, the Joint IOUs asked to (1) extend the due date for opening comments by four weeks, to February 24, 2023, and (2) extend the due date for reply comments by three days to a total of 15 calendar days following opening comments.

The Joint IOUs state that good cause exists to grant the request and that granting it will maximize the quality of responses. Specifically, the Joint IOUs state that the Staff Proposal requires significant time to analyze and prepare substantive responses because it poses 42 questions on significant gas system planning issues that span operational, financial, and policy subject matters. The Joint IOUs also note constrained personnel resources during the end of the year holiday season.

The Joint IOUs state that they notified the parties to the proceeding of their intent to submit the extension request and that Environmental Defense Fund, Utility Consumers' Action Network, California Environmental Justice Alliance and Center for Accessible Technology support the request. The Joint IOUs state that Indicated Shippers (IS) supports the extension request with the modification of requesting more time for the reply comments. Specifically, and as clarified in an email also on January 10, 2023 by IS, IS requests an extension of the due date for reply comments to 21 calendar days from opening comments to allow for sufficient time to deliberate on the technical comments contained in opening comments. The Joint IOUs state that the IS request is supported by The Utility Reform Network, Coalition of California Utility Employees, the Public Advocates Office, and Sierra Club. The Joint IOUs indicate they are also amendable to IS's proposal regarding reply comments.

For good cause shown, the Joint IOUs request to extend the due date to February 24, 2023 is granted. For good cause shown, the IS proposal to extend

the due date for reply comments to 21 days following the due date for opening comments, or March 16, 2023, is also granted. As indicated in the December 22, 2023 ruling, parties shall respond to the questions set out in the Staff Proposal in the order the questions are presented and may provide additional comments regarding the Staff Proposal if desired.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The Joint IOUs request for an extension of time to respond to my December 22, 2022 ruling is granted.
2. Gas corporation respondents to this rulemaking shall and other parties may file comments on all aspects of the Staff Proposal attached to the December 22, 2022 ruling no later than February 24, 2023. Reply comments are due March 16, 2023.
3. Parties filing comments shall respond to the questions for parties set out in the Staff Proposal in the order the questions are presented. Parties may also file additional comments regarding the Staff Proposal on topics not addressed by the questions provided.
4. Pursuant to Rule 11.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, parties shall state in the opening paragraph of their opening and reply comments that the Administrative Law Judge granted the extension request in a ruling dated 1/17/2023.

Dated January 17, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CATHLEEN A. FOGEL
Cathleen A. Fogel
Administrative Law Judge